

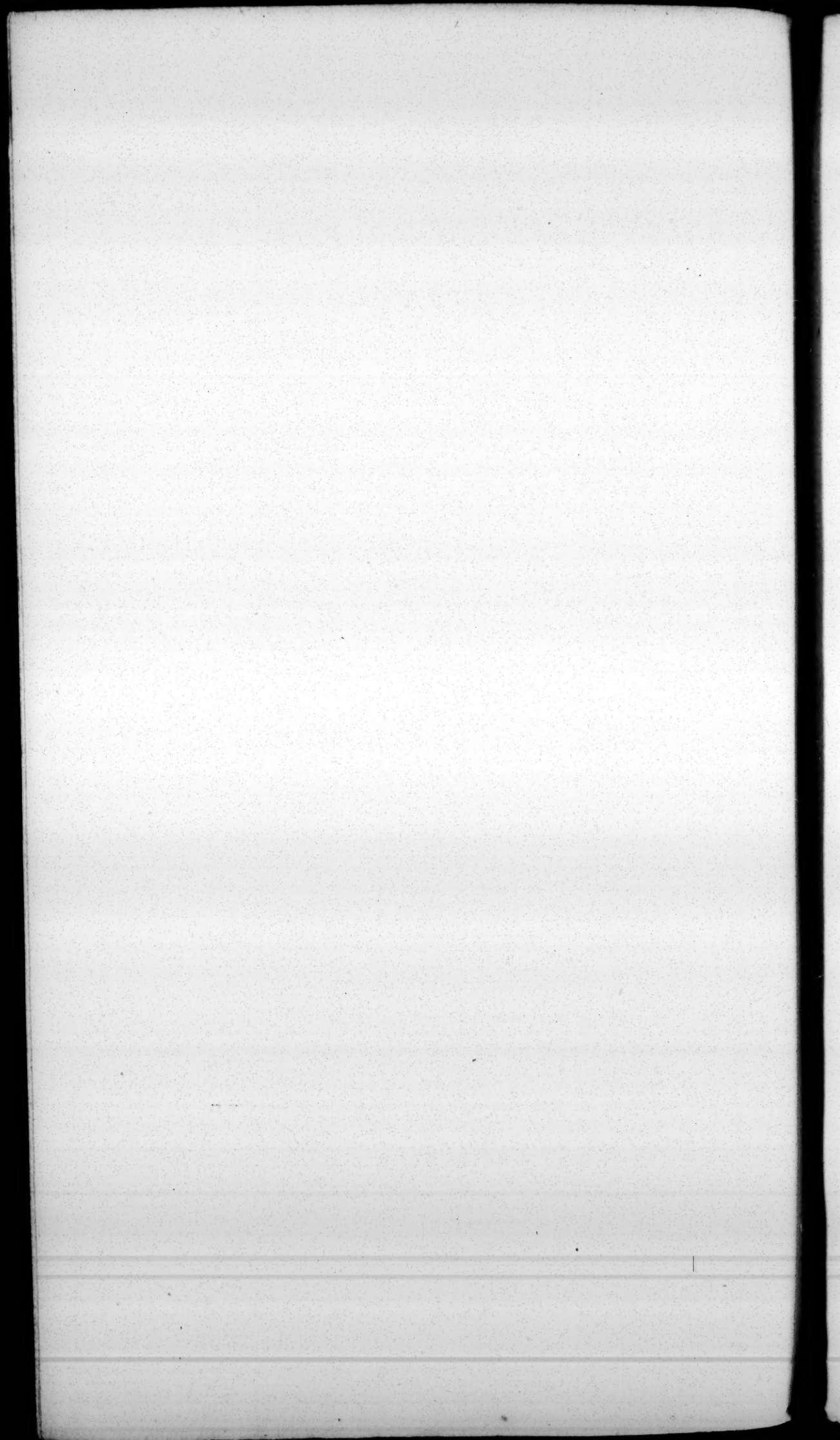
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A
STATEMENT OF FACTS,
RELATIVE TO
THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE
REV. DR. PARR
TO THE LATE
MR. H. HOMER, AND DR. COMBE;
IN ORDER TO POINT OUT THE
SOURCE, FALSEHOOD AND MALIGNITY
OF
DR. PARR'S ATTACK,
IN THE
BRITISH CRITIC,
ON THE
CHARACTER OF DR. COMBE.

*An, si quis atro dente me petiverit,
Inultus ut flebo puer?*

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR T. PAYNE AND J. EDWARDS.

1794.



A

STATEMENT OF FACTS,

Ec. Ec. Ec.

I Should not have obtruded on the Public the following hasty defence of my own character, against the malicious insinuations of Dr. Parr, if he had given me any reason to suppose, that he would have contradicted the false and invidious reflections he has published against me in the last British Critic, or if the Conductors of that work had consented to publish my first letter to the Doctor.

I do not see how the Conductors of the British Critic, having refused my letter, can in future lay any claim to candour or impartiality. It is clear, from their own letter*, as well as from the letters of the Doctor, that they know how far he has been concerned in the work—that he writes from resentment—and that the principal part of what he has already sent them, was founded in falsehood and misrepresentation. The reason

* Vide No. 6.

they give for not inserting it, must appear to every one merely an excuse: for though I might hereafter, if Dr. Parr did not handsomely contradict what he has asserted and insinuated, be obliged to publish the whole of the Doctor's behaviour to the late Mr. H. Homer and myself; yet as the Conductors had already administered the poison, it was certainly their duty to have given the antidote, and that as soon as possible, and in the same vehicle. They cannot be ignorant how much quicker scandal flies, and how much more tenaciously it is retained, than truth.

*Discit enim citius, meminitque libentius illud,
Quod quis deridet, quam quod probat, & veneratur.*

But in order that the observations, which I have to make, respecting Dr. Parr's behaviour, may be more clearly understood, I will here insert the following letters.

No. 1.

Dr. COMBE to Dr. PARR.

DR. Combe presents his compliments to Dr. Parr.—Last Saturday evening I read the first part of your review of the new edition of Horace cum Not. Var. As there are some passages which, I think, directly attack my moral character, and are certainly unfounded, or misrepresented, I must desire you to send this note to the Editors of the British Critic, for insertion with the second part of your review. In the course of about forty years, since our acquaintance (I wished to have said friendship) commenced, you never once had reason to mistrust my veracity—I know you will not do it now; therefore I hope no consideration will prevent you doing me this piece of justice. Friend is with me a sacred name, it is not to be taken up with levity, nor laid down on account of any trifling expressions, or little peculiarities, which may proceed rather from a temporary indisposition of the body, than a fault of the heart, “ Est autem
 “ amicitia nihil aliud nisi omnium divinarum,
 “ humanarumque rerum cum benevolentia et
 “ caritate summâ consensus, Quâ quidem haud
 “ scio, an, exceptâ sapientia, quidquam melius
 “ homini

“ homini fit a Diis immortalibus datum ;” I have not violated it : but as I shall probably have occasion to enter more at large, hereafter, into this subject, in respect to poor Homer and yourself, I shall avoid pursuing it any further at present.

The first part of your review I shall take notice of is p. 50, “ but we could wish that the Doctor
 “ had been pleased to favour us with a more
 “ particular account of the share which really
 “ belonged to Mr. Homer, and this wish is suggested to us by motives, not of idle curiosity,
 “ but of substantial justice. We mean not to
 “ depreciate the abilities, or to arraign the sincerity of Dr. Combe. But we have weighty reasons for supposing, and no contemptible authority even for asserting, that the work was
 “ chiefly planned by Mr. Homer, that he had
 “ procured and arranged materials nearly for
 “ the whole.” As you were in our company the first time any thing was mentioned about the Horace, you must remember the proposal for a new Var. Edit. of Horace was first mentioned by me, not with an idea of having any thing to do with it myself, but merely as a proper thing for Homer ; he instantly caught at it, and said he would engage in it, if I would join him ; on which you immediately said, “ do Charles, and I will
 “ give you both my assistance :” you promised
 to

to mark Bentley, and some other books, and said you would give us some new notes. As to the plan, what there was, was afterwards settled between us in conversation, but never committed to writing. Homer read over and marked Lambinus, and I Torrentius and Cruquius. These he afterwards compared together, and, generally, where the same sense was conveyed, very properly gave the preference to Lambinus. This we did gradually as the work went on; and when I had the misfortune to lose our poor friend, I do most solemnly assure you there was not a single Note got ready by us for the further progress of the work, nor any arrangement made, as you assert, even for the finishing the first volume. This was well known to Homer's family; and I thought you must have been acquainted with it from my subsequent letters*. Mr. Homer marked the various readings, at the King's Library, to about the middle of the fourth book of Odes, and I examined the MSS in the British Museum. After his death, as I found it very inconvenient to be so far from home as the King's Library, and, after having been there

* From examining the Doctor's own letters, I find I did inform him, immediately after the death of Mr. Homer, that the latter left no papers respecting the Horace, nor any memorandums of what was to be done, or what had been done. This was in consequence of the Doctor's desire to see them, if such existed.

twice, was informed that a copy of the same book was in the possession of an acquaintance; I borrowed it, and extracted the remainder of the various readings at my own house. In p. 55, you say, "Our readers, we doubt not, are well acquainted with the correctness of the late Mr. Homer, in the very useful office of making Indexes. We trust that Dr. C. has profited by the example of his friend." In regard to the Index, I entirely settled the plan of the additions myself; I bought the Amsterdam edition of Bentley; I had the Index interleaved, did at least one half by myself, or with the assistance of my own family; in the rest I was assisted by Mr. Homer, when he had time to come, which was not so often as he wished, for nothing could exceed either his industry or willingness; but the other works he was printing for himself, and what he had to do for you, rendered it impossible. The beginning of the Index was nearly coeval with the work itself; as we soon found a very correct Index would be absolutely necessary in the prosecution of our design. That I availed myself, as much as possible, of the assistance and example of Mr. Homer is certain: but at the time this was done, I believe, he had never made, or improved an Index. The number of additions or corrections to the improved edition of Tretter's Index, added

to

to the Amsterdam edition of Bentley 1728, appeared to me to be so great, that I kept the copy, as it came from the printer's, to shew, if any body should doubt the fact; and I am now glad I did, as you may see, at any time you please to call in Bloomsbury-square, that the whole is in my hand-writing. I cannot here avoid noticing, though I mean at present to keep clear of verbal criticism, that *Collectus* was used by Tretter himself, in the 1st edition, printed by C. Plantin 1575; afterwards adopted by Dan. Aveman; and then by Isaac Verbergius in the Amsterdam edition of Bentley, before quoted, from whom I copied it.

The first proof was always brought to me; when I examined all the quotations, corrected the references when wrong, and added them when omitted; and notwithstanding your rude mode of expression, and the words of Longinus, I believe, there is scarce a classical quotation, a few Greek ones excepted, which I did not accurately examine: and this was by far the most troublesome part of the work; very many of the quotations were without references, and many of the rest erroneous; often one reference has taken me up an hour, and I have examined many thousands.

There were always three proofs, sometimes four, the two last Mr. Homer always examined:

B

his

his eyes were better than mine by nature, and more so by habit. These examinations, he used to say, always took him up four hours.

In p. 52, you say, "We must not conceal
 " from our readers what Mr. Homer *intended* to
 " do. If that judicious and diligent scholar
 " had been living, the illustrious names of Mr.
 " Windham and Mr. Burke would have adorned
 " the page in which we now find the venerable
 " name of Lord Mansfield; and the dedication
 " itself would have been written by a person,
 " the whole force of whose mind would have
 " been exerted upon such an occasion." Any
 one, the least accustomed to your style of writing,
 and mode of thinking and speaking of yourself,
 will here immediately acknowledge the name of
 Dr. Parr; but let me assure Dr. Parr, that Mr.
 Homer often declared to me, in very strong
 terms, that he never would have it dedicated to
 the two honourable persons you mention. I
 remember in one of your letters to me, soon
 after the death of poor Homer, you mentioned
 something about an agreement between you and
 him to this effect, but I never heard before of
 any such agreement; and he was a man of too
 much honour to say it should not be, if he had
 once agreed to it. I know you often mentioned
 it, but you never had a direct answer.

Page 54, I find "The applause given to the
 " curators,

“ curators, &c. is doubtless just: but are these
 “ all the acknowledgments which from a regard
 “ to truth, and from the peculiar delicacy of *pre-*
 “ *sent* circumstances, not unknown to ourselves,
 “ Dr. Combe ought to have made?” If Dr.
 Parr had not repeatedly insisted, that his name
 might not be made use of, it would certainly
 have been incumbent on the Editor to have
 made the strongest acknowledgments to him
 for the very great assistance he gave in the pro-
 gress of the First Volume; and I seize this
 opportunity to return him my warmest thanks.
 And as this call upon my veracity and delicacy
 is in effect more than an ample licence to state
 the extent of the obligation, I hope you will
 have the candour to contradict the whole of
 your letter to Mr. Nares, an abstract of which
 is inserted at the end of the British Critic for
 November last, and do honour to your veracity
 by assuring the Public, so far from having given
 none of the Notes, as you there assert, that all
 the Notes, marked “Edit.” are either of your
 own writing, or pointing out in works you did
 not think necessary to be mentioned, and the
 word “Edit.” was annexed at your desire; that,
 instead of just pointing out some Notes for se-
 lection from Bentley, &c. you carefully marked
 every passage you wished to be printed, and,

that you revised nearly every sheet of the First Volume before it was printed off.

Though I did not intend to take notice of any of the criticisms at present, yet there is something so capricious in the candour of the following, and it having some relation to my moral character, I cannot avoid mentioning it.—Speaking of the motto, you bring in lines certainly never intended, and which cannot be applied so long as “*Virtutis veræ custos*” stands before: and in the very same page you separate “*mecum hanc ce operam inceperat*” from what it is immediately connected with, on purpose to add “the Doctor’s brief and cold expression is.” I meant that “*consiliorum omnium societate mecum nuper conjunctissimi*,” should have conveyed a great deal. It was my wish, that the whole might be as warm as possible; and that it might express the high opinion I ever had of his merits, the regard I had for his friendship, and the veneration, almost to enthusiasm, I would pay to his memory, now he is no more; and I would do every thing within the compass of my abilities and fortune, to do honour to his name or perpetuate his virtues. Could my language do justice to my emotions, which the recollection of poor Homer calls forth, I am sure the tribute would be neither brief nor cold: I would describe in such language the very high
ideas

ideas he had of honour—friendship—truth. That it should be worthy a place at Hatton, where Dr. Parr might contemplate and learn what these virtues really are.

I shall be much obliged to you to let me know by a note, whether it will be consistent with your situation, to get this inserted in the next *British Critic*; if not, be pleased to return it, that I may send it to the Editors myself.

No. 2.

Dr. PARR to Dr. COMBE.

SIR,

I *HAVE* the honour of your letter while a learned gentleman concerned in the *British Critic* *was* with me. I tell you now, as I have told you again and again, that Mr. Homer and I had settled about the dedication, and that I was to write it. I farther tell you, that in all our conversations, I considered Mr. Homer as more qualified than yourself, and as more employed than yourself in planning, and, so long as he lived, in conducting the Edition of *Horace*. I never supposed, nor said, that the plan was committed to writing; but I know that Mr. Homer had more clear and distinct views, than

I con-

I conceived it possible for you to have, of what an Editor ought to do *. By your own account, Homer read Lambinus, Torrentius, and Cruquius, while the work went on; and though afterwards you might compare with him the notes of these critics, yet it is plain, from your own statement, that the greatest share of the trouble was taken by him: and in truth, Sir, his learning was such as enabled him to do more than you did. Whether the preference to Lambin was by agreement among yourselves, I know not; but I myself told Homer of the esteem in which I held Lambin; and I must beg leave to add, that when I wrote to you, after Homer's death, I advised you to draw very largely from Lambin.—Mr. Homer, to my knowledge, had *collected* a very large apparatus of editions; and, in his conversations with me, which were far more frequent, and, I believe, more interesting than my conversations with you and him, I found his mind fully prepared to appreciate the value of the materials he had so brought together. Who examined the Museum MS. I know not; and I can easily conceive, that the trouble of collating them was oftener performed by you than by him.—Still,

* They, who are acquainted with the Doctor's contemptuous mode of speaking about and treating other people, will not be surprized at these and other expressions of the same nature.

Sir, I am of opinion, that Mr. Homer had collected what you collected not; and that collection implies materials nearly for the whole. And you will please to observe the force of the qualifying word. I did not mean to convey to any reader, that he had marked notes for the whole; and if you had been pleased to have been more particular in your Preface, you might have prevented the possibility of misconception. Mr. Homer, even if he had not marked notes in Lambin, Cruquius, and Torrentius, for the whole, still was, in my opinion, the person who pointed the sources where they were to be had; and, therefore, I consider the expression as justifiable, with the qualifying term I have before-mentioned.—As to the Index, I believe that the Review leaves you almost in the sole possession of the credit which is due to the improvement of Tretter's Index. I did not ever know that Mr. Homer had done so much as you state in your letter; and, from the Preface, it does not appear that he had done any thing at all. About the word *collectus*, I expressed doubt only, and that doubt is not removed by the authority you produce. As to the Greek quotations, I call them many which you call few; and in which you will soon know, perhaps to your mortification, that the inaccuracies are many. I told Homer, generally, to be very careful about accents, and
other

other things; and, now and then, I pointed out, in my letters, errors which I found in the sheets sent to me; some of the sheets, you know, were, in consequence of your directions, not sent to me; and about those which were sent, I frequently contented myself with general directions to Mr. Homer to be on his guard *. In your Preface you say, that you have examined all the passages, and in your letter to me, you except a few Greek ones. Now, Sir, were I to admit the fact of your having examined all, I should make it appear, that you have examined many Greek passages to very little purpose. In regard to my assistance, I certainly did, while Mr. Homer was alive, and while you and I were on terms of friendship, request that my name might not be mentioned; but you will be pleased to remember, that when our friendship was no more, and when the delicate circumstances to which the Review alludes, had succeeded, you were, in this new change of situation, obliged to pursue a different conduct, and to have enquired of me, whether my first requisition, in a state of friendship, was to bind

* I should have thought the learned Reviewer would have been more on his guard than to have confessed, that he frequently contented himself with giving *general* directions about a sheet that was sent by the post, nearly one hundred miles, for his *particular* correction.

you when we were in a less ***† situation. In all probability, I should not myself have alluded to the fact, if my name had not been used by Booksellers, and even introduced into the British Critic.

Sir, I shall maintain every word which I sent to the Conductors of the British Critic; for, in my private letter to them, I stated the extent of my share; I told them, that I had marked the first volume of Bentley, the whole of Cunningham, the *Venusinæ Lectiones* of Klotzius, and Janus, and some scattered observations in other critics.

And at this moment I am telling one of the Conductors, that I marked the observations of Mr. Wakefield, in the Appendix to his Poems; and to criticisms affixed to the *Supplices Mulieres* of Euripides. By letter, or in conversation, I desired Mr. Homer to select notes from the *Sylva Critica* of Mr. Wakefield, and from the *Epistola Critica* of Markland; and I find both these works noticed in your Catalogue.

It is very true, Sir, that I suggested a few Notes, to which the name of "Edit." was by my request affixed; and it is also true, that not one of these is an original note.

† This word I cannot make out; and if there should be any word wrong quoted, I hope the Doctor will attribute it to my inability to make out his hand-writing,

In regard to the Conductors of the British Critic, I shall leave you to settle the matter with them; and I have no doubt of their acting wisely and honourably.

I am, Sir,

Feb. 6:

Your humble servant,

S. PARR.

You have long known my objections to the Motto, * and you may observe, that in the Review are quoted the under:—" *Quique mecum, &c.*" at full in the text. Mr. Homer, among many other works, had procured Jason de Noris, and it was my advice that he should publish the whole. I understood from him that he had some thoughts of doing so. I see only one passage in the Review which ought to be altered, and that I shall have great pleasure in altering. I think the Latin part of the notes very correct; of the Greek, you will hereafter know the opinion of the British Critic. In the course of the critique, I have *already* stated in my *paper* the difference between the two volumes; and have given you the credit of selecting, after

* The Doctor, here, doth not mean the motto, but the man whom he has introduced into his critique, in order to shew his remarkable talent at sly, insidious detraction; and it is, undoubtedly, for the same reason he has introduced the late learned and pious Bishop Halifax.

Homer's

Homer's death, from Bentley and other critics, except those I had marked.

I have sent your paper to the Conductors.

By original notes *, I mean conjectures or discoveries of my own. I have not the British Critic of December or November. But I said in my letter to the Conductors, that I had pointed out scattered Notes; and this does not apply to editions merely, but to any observations, in any form, upon Horace. Such are all the Notes signed Edit. except one; and that one, which is a transposition of a ship, was communicated to me in conversation, and, for ought I know, may be in some book. It is not mine. I remember I did not invent it, nor did the person, whom I heard it from, pretend to invention.

* The learned Reviewer, being hampered by his promise of giving some new notes, and his letter to the Conductors, in which he says he had given no notes, has here recourse to his usual sophistry of splitting, subdividing, confounding, &c.

No. 3.

Dr. COMBE to Dr. PARR.

SIR,

PROFESSIONAL business prevented me yesterday acknowledging the favour of your letter. As to the dedication, independent of what Mr. Homer often told me, the truth of which I must insist on, the thing is impossible. Mr. Homer had too accurate a knowledge of propriety to attempt, and was too well acquainted with my disposition to venture, to agree in any such matter without my approbation and concurrence, much less without my knowledge; but, as I before mentioned, you took silence for consent, and made the agreement with yourself.

You say, "By your own account Homer read
 " Lamb. Torr. and Cruq.; and though after-
 " wards you might compare with him the notes
 " of these critics, yet it is plain, from your own
 " statement, that the greatest share of the trou-
 " ble was taken by him." You go on and say,
 " Whether the preference to Lamb. was by
 " agreement I know not, but &c." and then you
 proceed to reason on these premises. What a
 total misrepresentation of what I wrote to you!
 I wrote, Homer read over and marked Lambinus:
 and

and I Torrentius and Cruquius: that is, I read over and marked Torrentius and Cruquius; I do not recollect that these books were ever at his apartments; instead of *we*, I wrote, these *he* afterwards compared together, and I say nothing of myself. As to the materials, you say he had got together, it was thus: you lent us a few books; of the rest, I am sure four, I believe five out of seven were mine. You say you can easily conceive that the task of collating the MSS. was oftener performed by me than by him; indeed your conception is very wonderful, when I tell you I *always* examined them, and consequently that he *never* did. As to the rest of your letter, the arguments are so forcible, the deductions so natural, and the logic so clear, that it is impossible for me to say any thing to them, they must, and they will speak for themselves.

There is something to me very extraordinary in *your* accusing me of a want of respect and regard for the character of Mr. Homer. Surely you cannot forget the letter you sent to me, when he was scarcely settled in his grave, filled with complaints against him, without one recollection of his virtues, or one acknowledgment of his services. You cannot forget the letter, in the warmth of my friendship, I sent to you in his justification, stating how far the things you
complain

complain of were owing to yourself; (this is what I meant to call to your recollection, when I spoke of friendship in my first note) how his affairs had been disturbed; how his mind was hurt; and his disease, perhaps, aggravated by your behaviour to him. You cannot forget the letter the poor father sent you, after his son's death, about the complaints poor Harry often made of you before his exit: that he frequently lamented how much injury to his affairs, and uneasiness to his mind, had been occasioned by your want of punctuality; and that this was the more affecting to him, because he had ever been indefatigable in his exertions to execute every requisition from, and every act of friendship, which was in his power, towards you. Your attack on my moral character is such, and the whole of your conduct so unprovoked and unjust, that I shall find it necessary, in order thoroughly to justify myself from your aspersions and invidious suggestions; and to shew the source of all this malice, fully to state these circumstances, that it may appear who has been right and who wrong; and then the public will be able to judge of your character in the two points of view, in which every great and every good man would wish most to shine—the *public Citizen and the private Friend*.

Bloombury-square,
Saturday, Dec. 9, 1793.

I am, &c.

CH. COMBE.

No. 4.

Dr. PARR to Dr. COMBE.

SIR,

LAST night I received a second letter, signed with Dr. Combe's name, and written with such a degree of vivacity and clearness, as by no means resembles Dr. Combe's general style. It would not disgrace the pen of an ingenious acquaintance, with whom I dined yesterday se'nnight in your neighbourhood. Once I read over your former letter, and once it was read to me by a friend. The sentence about Lambin, and the two following sentences were read again and again. But the word *I*, which you state as preceeding Torrentius, was not discovered by my friend or myself, and as I have not your letter, I suppose we read *and*, abbreviated, for *I*. It was a misconception not misrepresentation intended by me. I remember the word *he* before examined, and I also remember the next sentence beginning thus: "This we did gradually as the work went on." Here my friend and *I* were puzzled. Neither of us had seen the word *I* in the first sentence: and as the third begins, "This we," I supposed you to refer to the preceding sentence, in which
 examination

examination is mentioned. But your letter of yesterday clears up the whole*. Homer consulted Lambin; Dr. C. consulted Torrentius and Cruquius; he examined the whole three, and gave the preference to Lambin when they agreed, "and *this you did gradually, &c.*" The expression is not accurate, but I understand it now.

You bring to my recollection the three angry letters, but much as I was surprised and grieved at the complaints of my friend, never did I feel for one moment the slightest diminution of my regard. I always***† and still have a fond recollection of his virtues, and his friendship, and his services; and I have great satisfaction in being conscious of my own readiness to serve him.

I am, Sir,
Your humble servant,
S. PARR.

To the rest of your letter I say nothing here.

* The original letter, returned to me by the Conductors of the British Critic, is left with Mr. Payne, at the Muse Gate; where any gentleman may see it, and judge, if it is possible for Dr. Parr and his learned friend to have made such a mistake.

† This word I cannot read.

No. 5.

*Dr. COMBE to the CONDUCTORS of the BRITISH
CRITIC.*

GENTLEMEN,

I AM informed by a letter I received last night from Dr. Parr, that he had sent to the Conductors of the British Critic my note to him, which I wish to have inserted with the Doctor's next part of his review of the new edition of Horace. If it is not consistent with your plan to print the whole, as above, I beg the favour of you to return it to Bloomsbury-Square. I observe, by the term being often repeated in Dr. Parr's letter, that I have made a mistake, through ignorance, in putting the name of Mr. Nares, instead of the Conductors of the British Critic: this, if you print the paper, I hope you will do me the kindness to correct; and I take this opportunity to beg Mr. Nares's pardon for having made so free with his name.

Friday Evening.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient
humble servant,

CH. COMBE.

No. 6.

*The CONDUCTORS of the BRITISH CRITIC
to Dr. COMBE.*

SIR,

THE Conductors of the British Critic wish to render you the fullest justice, as well as to shew you every civility. They would willingly have inserted in their Review the substance of your first letter to Dr. Parr; but, from your second letter to that gentleman, they understand that you intend to communicate with the public in another form.

They therefore only conceive it necessary to return your letter with proper compliments, and thanks for the honour you intended them; and remain

Feb. 12, 1794.

Your obedient and obliged
humble servants,

The Conductors of the British Critic.

This was enclosed in a cover marked W. B.

I Do not pretend to any claim on Dr. Parr's gratitude: few have been the opportunities I have had to render him any essential services; yet he knows I was ever most willing. But from our long acquaintance, from his own professions, from the manner in which I was induced to begin the work, I expected, and I think I had a right to expect more assistance from him in the prosecution of it, than I have received. Little did I think that he would not only have meanly endeavoured clandestinely to destroy the credit of the work, but the character of the remaining Editor. I believe, taking all the circumstances together, there will not be found, in the annals of literature, so base a transaction.

The attachment and regard that Mr. H. Homer had for Dr. Parr, the alacrity and the punctuality with which he executed all his commissions, and, while in London, the considerable portion of his time he gave up to the Doctor's business, deserved a much more active and friendly return than he experienced, as will presently appear: "*Sed plerique perversé, ne dicam impudentér, amicum habere talem volunt quales ipsi esse non possunt, quæque ipsi non tribuunt amicis, hæc ab iis desiderant.*"

That Dr. Parr's behaviour doth not arise from any regard to the memory of Mr. Homer,

will clearly appear. After misquoting my letter, which it seems he was sensible of at the time, he says, " If he (Mr. Homer) had not marked " notes in Lambinus, Cruquius, and Torren-
 " tius for the whole, still he was, in my opinion,
 " the person who pointed out the sources where
 " they were to be had." Here the Doctor means nothing less than to speak of Mr. Homer, but only of himself; as a little lower he, in effect, states nearly the whole of the notes were pointed out by himself. I am very far from wishing to lessen the Doctor's services or merits, but I suppose he don't mean to insinuate that if he had not pointed them out, we should have known nothing of such works.

In order to shew still more strongly that it was neither a respect for the character of Mr. H. Homer now he is dead, nor a real regard for him when living, that prompted him to this attack upon me, I shall mention the following circumstances.

Mr. Homer, having met with the minor pieces of Bellendenus, thought it would be an acceptable thing to the public in general, and to the Scotch gentlemen in particular, to present them with a new edition, and thereby bring from obscurity so eminent a scholar, and so great an ornament of the Scottish nation. This he communicated to Dr. Parr, who approved of his
 design,

design, and told him he would write a preface to it. Mr. Homer, whose regard and admiration for Dr. Parr at that time was so great, that he thought every thing he did must command a rapid sale, immediately accepted his offer, and thanked him: but notwithstanding the expence of engraving, the care in printing, &c. the event turned out different from his expectation. For the original intention of the edition was lost in the reception it met with as a political pamphlet. I afterwards learnt from Mr. Homer senior, that his son paid Dr. Parr for this 50*l.* notwithstanding which the Doctor soon afterwards insisted on a new edition of the preface being published separately; and had so little grace as to desire Mr. Homer to make the best bargain he could for him with some bookseller. Not many of the original had been sold; a great many, which had been bound in morocco and other rich bindings, were left on hand; and if a new edition had been published by a bookseller, the loss to Mr. Homer would have been great. He consulted with me, and we both thought it would be better for him to buy it, and to give the Doctor 15*l.* 15*s.*; at this time I knew nothing of the 50*l.* or my advice would have been different*.

* Mr. Homer's father was not acquainted with this transaction till the Doctor informed him of it, in order to make out a debt of 20*l.* which he said was due to him at Mr. H. Homer's death.

Dr.

Dr. Parr knew money was not plentiful: Mr. Homer had expended near 2000*l.* in paper and printing, the returns were slow, and more money wanted for finishing the works he had begun: but when this was urged in order to get Dr. Parr to be more expeditious in his assistance, I may here truly say, *the Doctor's brief and cold expression was*, quoting St. Luke, "Who so intending to build, sitteth not down first and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?"

Mr. Homer having very correctly printed, for the use of schools, the three first books of the three decades of Livy, Dr. Parr promised him to write a preface for it. There was no place here either for politics or detraction*. Mr. Homer, having frequently reminded him of this promise, and after waiting fourteen months, was obliged to write a short one for himself, and publish it.

In regard to the Horace, though I am sure it never took the Doctor seven hours to mark the notes in Bentley for one book of the Odes, yet he twice kept the book at Hatton near seven months, the press all that time being obliged to stand still.

The Doctor, in his second letter, says, "But

* Vide preface to Bellendenus, and preface and dedication to Warburton's Tracts.

“ much as I was surpris’d and griev’d at the
 “ complaints of my friend, never did I feel for
 “ one moment the slightest diminution of my
 “ regard.” Here, I think, from what has been
 related, we may give the most implicit confidence
 to the Doctor’s assertion, for I think the public
 will be satisfi’d it was too scanty to bear the
slightest diminution.

I might, though I think it not necessary, have
 stated other circumstances to strengthen the
 above arguments, but I have not the vouchers.
 The Doctor, immediately after Mr. Homer’s
 death, request’d that all his letters, notes, &c.
 might be return’d; and, not being willing to de-
 pend on Mr. Homer’s regular representatives,
 he wrote to me, in very strong terms, to desire
 the same thing. Mr. Homer senior wish’d to
 know from me if I had any objection to these
 papers being sent back: I replied “ No; let the
 “ Doctor have them all;” and they were all
 sent: I did not then suspect what the Doctor’s
 further intentions were.

From the preceding account it is clear that
 Dr Parr is angry, not because too little is said
 of Mr. Homer, but because nothing is said of
 Dr. Parr: yet he acknowledges that he had re-
 quested his name might not be mentioned; but
 adds, “ When Homer was dead, and our friend-
 “ ship was no more, I should have pursued a diffe-
 “ rent

“rent mode of conduct, and have enquired of him whether he remained in the same mind.” Here the Doctor most strangely forgets propriety. If he had changed his mind, he was to have informed me, not I to have enquired of him; and for this he had the best possible opportunity, on my sending to him about the preface, when he wrote me the following unfriendly sentence, “As you are in haste to get your book out, I also am in haste to tell you how little you can expect from me in enabling you to do so; I mean in respect to the dedication and preface.” This was the time, if Dr. Parr had changed his mind, to have told me so; the fault was entirely his own. I am sure it was not my wish to have his name concealed, and I do not think it was for the interest of the book to have it so. As to myself, so little credit did I think was due to the Editor of such a publication, that I did not even affix my name to the title page, nor did I intend to put it to the advertisement in the papers.

Surely there is something very whimsical in the Doctor’s ideas: it is even a laughable circumstance, that almost in the very sentence where he takes it so ill that his name has not been mentioned, he complains that his name has been made use of, and even introduced into the British Critic. “Mira verborum complexio!”

I suppose,

I suppose, what was printed by the Conductors of the British Critic, Dr. Parr sent to them. It is clear from his own letters, they are his particular friends; I am sure they are not mine.

It is difficult to account for Dr. Parr's behaviour through the whole of this business. As soon as the Doctor found we had laid out some hundred pounds in paper, and that it was too late for us to recede, he gradually became every month less attentive to the promises he had made us; and after the death of Mr. Homer, assuming a degree of consequence in proportion as his vanity prompted him to think he became more indispensably necessary, he in his correspondence gradually forgot not only the idea of friend, but even that of gentleman. On discovery of this humble and friendly temper in the Reverend Doctor, I ceased to correspond with him, and neither remonstrated nor complained. From which time, which is near two years, I have heard nothing from him.

Dr. Parr was doubtless offended about the dedication: he states an engagement with Mr. Homer, which Mr. Homer had no right to make, and was a man of too much rectitude to enter into, without my knowledge; an engagement which Dr. Parr himself never mentioned to me in Mr. Homer's life-time. Every one must allow, that after the money I had expended, and

the trouble I had taken, I was perfectly right in dedicating it to my own friend, in preference to Dr. Parr's two political acquaintance. I make use of this term, as the Doctor doth not seem to have any true knowledge of real friendship.

This is the only thing, I know, which can have offended the Doctor; except our difference in political matters*.

Dr.

* Monarchy, in my opinion, more especially limited as in this kingdom, is the greatest security for public liberty and private happiness. Under a monarchy there is mercy arising from a discrimination of the nature of crimes, which laws cannot always notice; under a monarchy there is a revision of judgments passed under the influence of popular delusion or popular prejudice, and, above all, there is responsibility. None of these blessings can be enjoyed under a democratic republic. The most absolute monarch on earth can be the tyrant only to a certain point; when the Emperor of Turkey comes to that, he is cut off, and another of the family is placed upon the throne. This remedy, desperate as it is, cannot be applied in such a republic. You may take off a Pelletier, a Marat, a Danton, or a Robespierre, and you are no nearer being freed from the oppression and tyranny under which you groan. In the same proportion as numbers lessen responsibility, tyranny is increased: each individual thinks that, among so many, little of the blame will fall to his own share. We see this every day in common life: ten or a dozen persons will do that collectively, which any one among them would be ashamed of.

It is with the body politic as with the body natural, that right and wrong often depend on time and circumstances. In a state of health and activity we may do that, not only with impunity
but

Dr. Parr may, perhaps, complain of the severity with which I have examined his conduct in this business; he may observe that in his Review he has not made use of this or that expression, but with a qualifying term, as, nearly, almost, supposing &c.;—and may endeavour to evade the force of facts, as he doth when speaking of the Index, “That the Review had left me “*almost* in the full possession of the credit of it;” but there are very few persons who would not understand from the Doctor’s insinuations, that the whole credit of the Index is to be given to Mr. Homer. The Doctor knows too much of

but advantage, which it would be madness to attempt when the system is deranged, and the body under the influence of disease. So when the body politic is threatened with convulsions, and the minds of the people are disturbed and unsettled through the intrigues and machinations of the worst of human beings; the person who would add to such disorder, by bringing forward any fresh cause of discontent and uneasiness, which might not only be allowable but praise-worthy at another time, would deserve a much more considerable censure than the term of bad subject or bad citizen; and I shall leave it to the nice discriminating genius of Dr. Parr to determine the proper epithet for such a man.

I do not mention these political opinions as supposing Dr. Parr either holds or disseminates a contrary doctrine; but yet I should be pleased to see, under the Doctor’s able hand, an acknowledgement of such opinions, without any of his metaphysical quibbles and distinctions, which serve only to confound not to enlighten the people.

the power of words not to be sensible that the worst mischief is done to persons and characters by innuendos, fly insidious suppositions, and suggestions. When the Jacobins and the Members of the Mountain, on the other side of the water, had any mischief, to be executed, of a more diabolical nature than ordinary, they always brought it about by such kind of speeches. This cannot have escaped the keenness of the Doctor's observation; and I have to lament that he has profited by such illustrious examples.

I shall entirely avoid at present verbal criticism; but there are a few things in the British Critic, not before noticed, which I shall mention here.

As to the substance of my first letter, I do not even now think it proper for a preface, or that it would have added any thing to what I have said of the character of Mr. H. Homer; if I had thought it would, I certainly should have done it.

The next thing I should have been ashamed to mention, was it not to point out the determination Dr. Parr had to find a fault, if possible. At the beginning of page 54, is the following: "We think Dr. Combe should have said the four *first* Odes of the fourth book; and the nine first *Satires* of the *first* book." The passage is perfectly clear as I printed it, and so the Doctor thinks

thinks when he writes himself; for, page 51, he says, "The first passage is to be found in the 1st Epist. and the second in the 16th Epist. of Horace," without the mention of any book.

As to the authors from whom the different pieces are taken, which are prefixed to the work, the Doctor might easily know where they are to be found, if he would take the trouble to look. The tract of Aldus Manutius de Undeviginti generibus Metrorum Horatii, is, as every scholar knows, prefixed to M. A. Muretus's edition of Horace, Aldus, Venet. 1561, from whence I took it. But it is not material, if they are good, whence they came; if they are not good, then the public have a right to complain. It was no more my intention to reprint all the tracts which has been published on the metre of Horace, than it was to reprint all the notes. It was my business to select.—Moreover Dr. Parr will please to recollect that I sent him an account of what I meant to prefix, of which he took no notice.

Where the Doctor got his anecdote of Gesner preferring the first edition to every MS. I cannot tell: *cuius libro MS. facile comparandum* certainly doth not mean it; and what he afterwards says—*literæ sæpe transpositæ.—voces vel omissæ vel cum ipsius metri perniciæ permutatæ.* and in a note on Epist. II. 2. v. 140. *in editione tot deformata*

deformata sphalmatis, certainly militates against it: and if the Doctor will allow my testimony, I should assert that it is one of the most incorrect printed books I ever examined.

What the Doctor means by my being profoundly versed in botanical studies, I know not, as I never professed to know much more of botany than relates to the *Materia Medica*. As to what is done, in the Var. Edit. of Horace, to settle, as well as could be, what particular plants or animals were meant by the author, I endeavoured to procure the best information; and notwithstanding Dr. Parr's contempt for every thing except mere philology and politics, I doubt not but this part will be well received by the Public.

F I N I S.

